

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 20-24 are pending in the application. Claims 2-5, 7-13 and 22 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 are rejected as anticipated by OZAWA et al. 6,676,283. Claim 23 is rejected as unpatentable over OZAWA et al. in view of Societe dite Automobiles Peugeot FR 2 698 055. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The only section under which the OZAWA et al. patent could be prior art is 35 USC §102(e). The §102(e) date of OZAWA et al. is its June 14, 2001 filing date. Applicants claim priority to French Application No. 01 02 754 filed February 28, 2001 which antedates OZAWA et al.'s earliest §102(e) date.

Applicants submit herewith a verified English language of the French priority document to perfect the claim to priority and remove OZAWA et al. as a prior art reference.

Each rejection applies the OZAWA et al. reference. As such reference is unavailable as prior art, none of the rejections can be maintained.

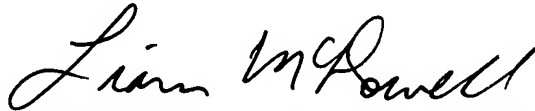
In the Official Action of August 12, 2003, claim 1 is indicated as generic. Accordingly, since claim 1 is believed allowable and is indicated as generic, withdrawal of the election of species requirement is respectfully requested and consideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the verified translation of the French priority document, the application is believed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- verified English translation of French Application No.
01 02 754